



INFORMATION FOR THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC
FROM THE

D.C. BOARD OF MEDICINE

September 2002

IT'S RENEWAL TIME

All D.C. medical licenses, acupuncture licenses and physician assistant licenses that were issued prior to October 1, 2002 expire on December 31, 2002. Renewal applications will be mailed by our contractor Promissor, formerly known as ASI, beginning the first week of October. If you do not receive a renewal application by the end of the second week of October, you can call Promissor at 1-888-204-6193 to arrange for a renewal application to be sent to you. The major reason for licensees not receiving a renewal application is an outdated address of record. Neither the D.C. Board of Medicine (the "Board") nor Promissor has a mechanism to change your address unless you notify us, and D.C. regulations require that you change your address with the Board within thirty (30) days of moving. Although the Department of Health (DOH) re-engineering plans anticipate bringing all license processing operations in house early next year, this renewal will be completed by Promissor, as were the last three.

Many licensees initially complained that they did not recognize the renewal applications with the first renewal that was completed by our contractor. That complaint, however, was significantly diminished two cycles ago, when the Board caused the renewal envelopes to be printed with the "stars and bars" of the District of Columbia. In addition, the renewal envelopes exhibit in bold print the words, **"IMPORTANT NOTICE, License Renewal Application**

Enclosed." Both the Board and our contractor are anxious to renew everyone who wants to do so. The Board wants all eligible people to renew timely to further its regulatory mission. Our contractor shares that goal and has the additional incentive of only being paid when a licensee renews.

Licensees are encouraged to renew as early as possible to avoid possible breaks in service and additional expense. Early next year, the DOH will assume all processing duties. If you have not completed a renewal by that time, there could be a delay in processing your renewal during the transition to in-house operations, although we will do everything that we can to avoid such delays.

D.C. regulations do allow licensees to renew up to sixty days after expiration. However, there is a late renewal fee applicable; and that fee was recently increased from \$25 to \$50. Please look for your renewal notice. You are strongly encouraged to renew *early*.

New Fees

On August 23, 2002, new fees were established for all DOH professional licensing boards through publication of final rulemaking in the *D.C. Register*.

In summary, the renewal fee and license fee for previously licensed physician was increased from \$120 (every two years) to \$240, making it

identical to Virginia's fee. The fee for an initial license by examination is unchanged at \$120, as a concession to residents. As mentioned above, the late renewal fee was increased from \$25 to \$50. The fee for verification of medical licenses was reduced from \$50 to \$20, and the fees for name and address changes (formerly \$20) were eliminated for all professions. Application fees were unchanged.

Physician assistant license and renewal fees were increased from \$45 to \$85. Acupuncture license and renewal fees were also increased from \$45 to \$85. For both of these professions, the application fees and the verification fees were unchanged.

**Board Orders
January to August 2002.**

Revoked Upon Voluntary Surrender

Lipnick, Robert Norman: (7/2/02) The physician surrendered D.C. and Maryland medical licenses while under investigation for unprofessional conduct during the examination of three female patients.

Summarily Suspended

Muller, Alfred: (9/11/02). The physician presented an imminent danger to the health and safety of the citizens of the District of Columbia. Dr. Muller pled guilty to misdemeanor sex abuse of a minor, and his Maryland license was revoked.

Hodjati, Hassan: (9/13/02). The physician presented an imminent danger to the health and safety of the citizens of the District of Columbia. Dr. Hassan wrote hundreds of prescriptions for narcotics for personal consumption, is habitually addicted to or habitually used a narcotic or controlled substance, fraudulently or deceptively used a medical license, prescribed, dispensed or administered drugs when not authorized to do so, and his Maryland license was summarily suspended.

Suspended

Schwartz, David T.: (2/27/02). The physician surrendered his D.C. medical license for indefinite suspension. Dr. Schwartz was disciplined by the Virginia Board of medicine for quality of care issues in the practice of urology.

Brody, Alan: (7/31/02). The physician's D.C. medical license was suspended six months with three months

stayed *nunc pro tunc* from October 17, 2001, remediation and reporting requirements. Dr. Brody was disciplined in Maryland for violation of medical ethics. He profited from insider stock information garnered from a patient in psychotherapy.

Probation

Carter, Bennie F.: (3/27/02). The physician's D.C. medical license was placed on probation for two years, remediation and reporting requirements. Dr. Carter engaged in correspondence with a patient that was viewed as unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine.

Kronen, Michael R.: (2/27/02). The physician's D.C. medical license was placed on probation for five years *nunc pro tunc* from March 24, 1999 with reporting requirements. Dr. Kronen was disciplined in Maryland for engaging in inappropriate social/physical/sexual conduct with a patient.

Ruonna, Luanne: (3/26/02). The summary suspension of the physician's D.C. medical license for relapsed alcohol abuse that was imposed on 8/10/99 was terminated. The physician's license was placed on indefinite probation to run concurrent with Virginia probation with reporting requirements.

Reprimanded and Fined

Crittenden, William J. III: (3/27/02). The physician's application for a D.C. medical license was approved with a reprimand and a fine of \$1200. Dr. Crittenden practiced as a physician assistant in D.C. without a license and filed a false affidavit with his application.

Inactive License Status

Levitt, Keith N.: (1/14/02). Dr. Levitt was disciplined in Arizona for substance abuse issues. His D.C. medical license was placed on inactive status until his Arizona license is restored to active status and the D.C. Board approves his return to active status.

The D.C. Board of Medicine

The current members of the Board are:

William E. Matory, M.D., Physician Member and Chairperson;

Vernon C. Smith, M.D., Physician Member and Vice-Chairperson;

James A. Buford, M.P.H., Statutory Member;

Bonnie L. Burnquist, M.D., Physician Member

Mrs. Savanna M. Clark, Consumer Member;

Frederick C. Finelli, M.D., Physician Member;

Jean Linzau, M.D., Physician Member;

Morton J. Roberts, M.D., Physician Member;

Peter G. Shields, M.D., Physician Member;

Ronald Simmons, Ph.D., Consumer Member; and

Andrea D. Sullivan, N.D., Ph.D., Consumer Member.

The Board staff includes **Mr. James R. Granger, Jr.**, Executive Director, and **Ms. Antoinette Stokes, Health Licensing Specialist**. The Board's phone number is (202) 442-9200. The fax number is (202) 442-9431.